

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Sinclair owns two of the four major stations in the Columbus, OH area, and thus, half of the major airwaves show their materials.

Sinclair uses these public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair is blatantly using its overwhelming ownership clout to attempt to affect the election... using our public airwaves in a private and partisan manner. It's electioneering of the highest degree, and I find it unconscionable.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.